



Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: SERMON ON THE MOUNT 4.29.2018

Recap:

- Like last week, in this passage, Jesus wants to close loopholes that the Israelites had created with God's laws. Ancient Israelites saw women as property, so the law against adultery seemed less like sexual sin and becomes more and more about property rights.
- Jesus wants us to see women (and men) as creations of God.
- Lust is bad because it dehumanizes creations of God.
- God made humans special: they are not animals that are only concerned about physical urges and desires and they are not angels that lack any physical needs.
- Humans are meant to have desires, so we should not suppress all desires, but these desires sometimes lead us to sin, but the good news is that Jesus forgives us of our sin.

Discuss:

1. Read Matthew 5:27-30.
2. Some of Jesus's expansions on the law seem impossible to follow perfectly. Why do you think Jesus makes it so hard?
3. How has someone who has looked at another lustfully already committed adultery in his/her heart?
4. Why is it hard to remember that other people are creations of God? Why does it seem like we so easily dehumanize one another?
5. 1 Timothy 4:3-5.
6. How is finding a balance between abstaining from any human need and gratifying every human need hard?
7. What are some other things that God has created for good that we have twisted for bad?
8. Read Romans 3:23-24.
9. Why do you think we so often overlook this essential message? What are some ways that we can remember that though we sin, we are forgiven?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

Read at Home: Additional Readings

2 Samuel 11-12:25: King David commits adultery with Bathsheba

Psalms 51: A psalm about King David's repentance for adultery

John 8:1-11: Jesus shows grace to an adulterous woman

1 Corinthians 6:12-20: Paul writes about the body as a temple